

TIMELY AND PATRIOTIC.

The President of the United States at Philadelphia.

A Red Letter Day in the University of Pennsylvania's Custom of Celebrating the Anniversary of George Washington's Birth.

The President at Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 22.—President McKinley ate an early breakfast with the family of Charles C. Harrison. He did not leave the house until a few minutes before 11 o'clock, when, in company with Mr. Harrison, he was driven to the Academy of music where the Washington birthday commemorative exercises of the University of Pennsylvania were held.

Over 2,000 students assembled on the university campus at 9:30 a. m. and marched, four abreast, to the Academy of music. The route was arranged so that the procession should pass Mr. Harrison's home, and the students gave a cheering welcome to the president. The chief magistrate, when the head of the long column reached the house, appeared at the door. There, with bowed head, he smilingly bowed to the hundreds of undergraduates in response to their hearty college greeting. The column marched in classes, and as each class reached the house its members shouted the college of "Pennsylvania." "Penn-Syl-Va-Nia," ending with "The President," "The President," "The President."

The president's face lighted up, and he looked across the parade.

The Academy of music, where the ceremonies were held, was beautifully decorated. After the university boys had again given the "varsity cheer," winding up with the president's name, Provost C. C. Harrison stepped to the front of the stage and introduced the president in a brief address. He said:

Provost Harrison's Address.

The traditions which belong to the great state of Pennsylvania are a priceless heritage. The memory of them binds us to the past, and gives us the motive and inspiring action for each university in our beloved country has its peculiar associations.

It is the peculiar pride of the University of Pennsylvania that it has been associated with the years during which Washington was the servant of his country, of what some of our students may justly feel that we have no pre-eminence in this country.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

and now, in these later years, in the time of our country's greatest crisis, the 22d of February as our "University Day" with a propriety which has been recognized by the nation.

Seven years of Washington's presidential life were spent in Philadelphia, and at a time when the area of the city was circumscribed within a short radius, when its institutions were few in number, and when comparatively small groups of its citizens were the active spirits in its affairs. Washington was in constant intercourse with the people, and his associates in the military operations and in federal administration were the university's Rittenhouse, its Morgan, its Bingham, its Francis Hopkinson, its McKean, its Shippen and its Robert Morris. From the executive mansion, Washington was in daily attendance on his law course under James Wilson, the first justice of the supreme court.

During Washington's presidency two of his nephews, George Shepley and Augustine Washington, took their degrees as bachelors of arts. In 1853 the University of Pennsylvania conferred upon Washington its highest honorary degree.

The theme of the ceremonies is the "Memory of Washington." No place is more fitted for it or more hallowed by its associations than Philadelphia, the University of Pennsylvania. Upon no less exalted theme should the University of Pennsylvania address the president of the United States to deliver the address, and I doubt whether there be any other occasion upon which such acceptance would have been given. For many years the celebration of this day has been a part of the life of the university.

On the occasion of the University of Washington, we have been honored by the presence of a president to speak, in the name of the university, of the first of that illustrious line. The president will in his address, I am sure, fully feel his gracious act, in that, amid the cares and duties of his high office, he has counted it worthy of his time and effort to be our guest upon this day.

He has distinguished the honor of presenting the trustees, the faculties and the students of the university and its guests, this great audience, to the president.

President McKinley replied as follows:

The President's Address.

MR. PROVOST, OFFICERS AND STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:—The University of Pennsylvania is one of our country's oldest and greatest, patriotic, and venerable institutions. It is the beginning of a great nation, and it is the beginning of a great people. But, in a certain sense, the University of Pennsylvania is the beginning of a great nation, and it is the beginning of a great people. But, in a certain sense, the University of Pennsylvania is the beginning of a great nation, and it is the beginning of a great people.

No wonder that your great university has made the twenty-second of February its most impressive ceremonial day. It is the anniversary of a special tribute to the memory of the first president of the United States, and it is the anniversary of a special tribute to the memory of the first president of the United States, and it is the anniversary of a special tribute to the memory of the first president of the United States.

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